

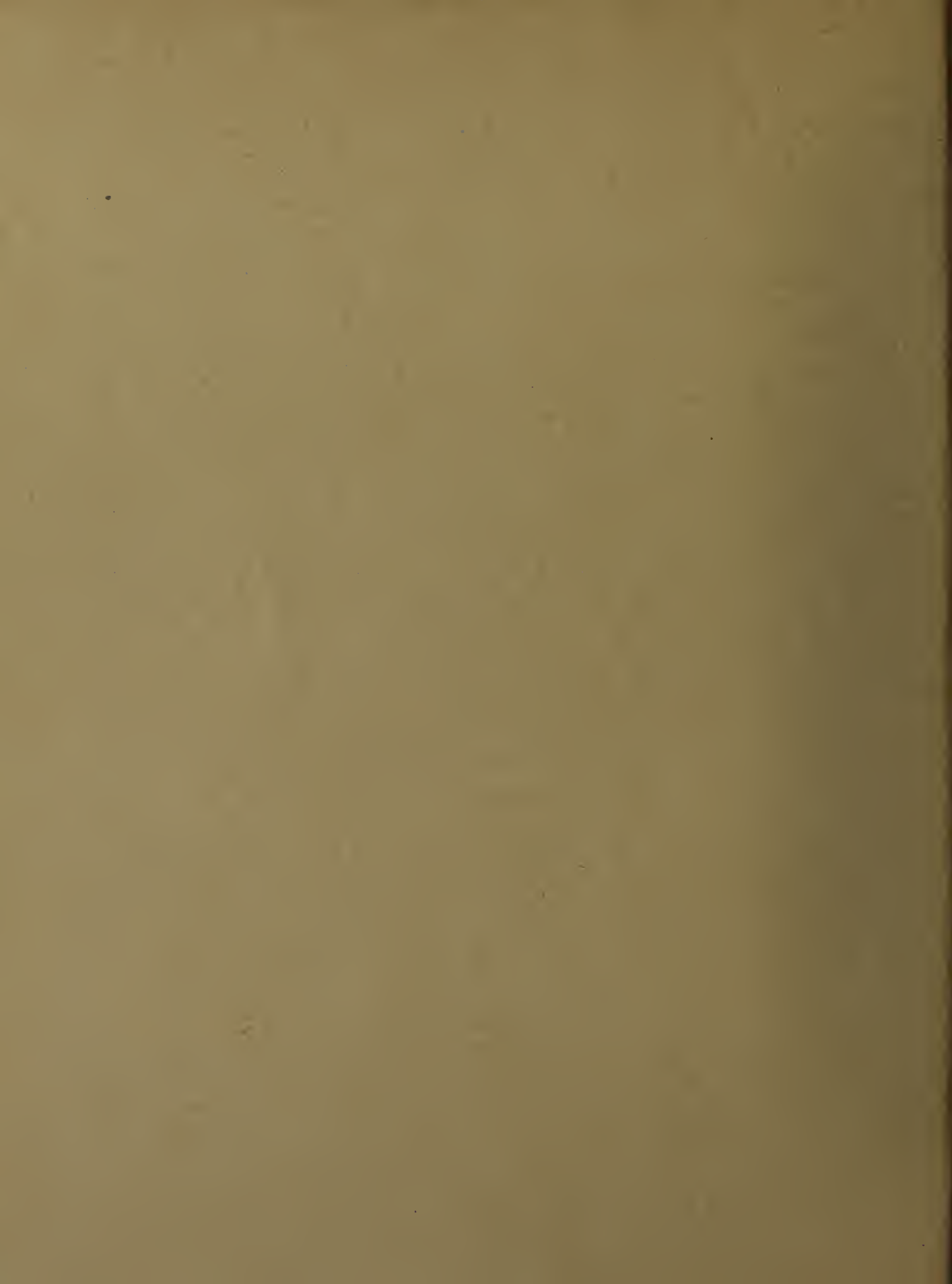
BOROUGH OF HEDON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1951



B O R O U G H O F H E D O N

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 1951/1952.

The Mayor

Councillor G.J. MILNER

Alderman S.T. JOHNSON

Alderman J.E. NORRISON

Alderman J.J. WARN

Councillor H. DOBSON

Councillor J.M. HUNTER

Councillor A.C. DOSSOR

Councillor T. JACKSON

Councillor C. DRESCHER

Councillor R.W. REED

Councillor W. HALES

Councillor J.W. TAYLOR

OFFICIALS

Town Clerk:

T. E. STANLEY

Medical Officer of Health :

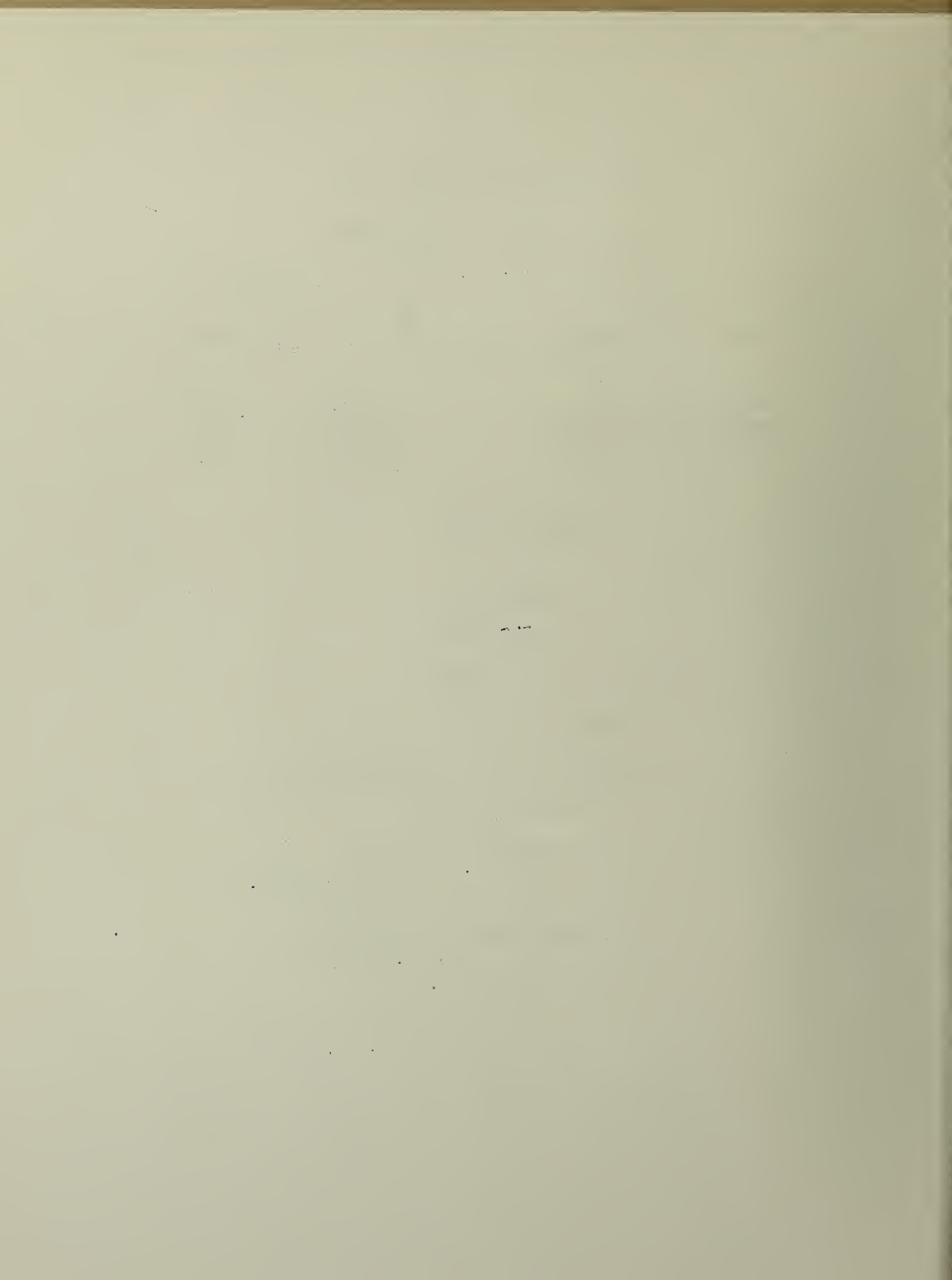
W. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Borough Treasurer:

J. H. SAVIDGE, A.I.M.T.A.,

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

H. ROPER SPENCER, F.I.A.A. & S.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Hedon.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report upon the Health Services of the Borough of Hedon for 1951.

The following are the important statistical rates for the year -

Death rate	- 13.07
Birth rate	- 24.28
Still birth rate	- 50.43
Infant Mortality rate	- 53.86

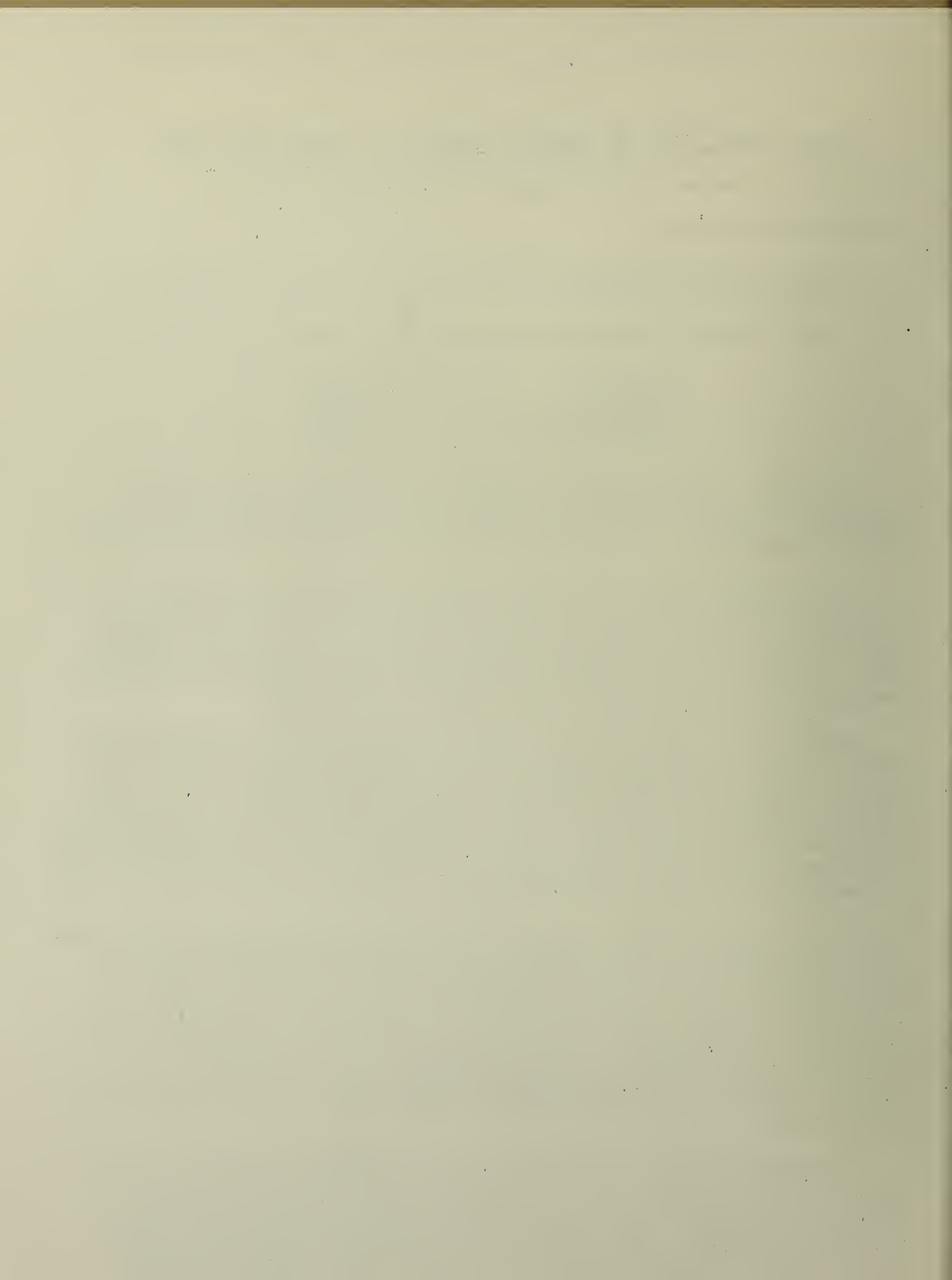
The latter two rates are much higher for Hedon than for the country as a whole, but as the population concerned is so small no statistically significant inferences can be drawn. The birth rate has risen for the second year in succession.

Some change has been made in the arrangement of this report, the descriptive matter has been collected together at the beginning, and most of the statistical tables have been grouped at the end. By so doing I hope the report will be made more readable, as many people wish to avoid statistical data, and prefer to get a general picture of the public health. For those who are statistically minded more detailed tables are available.

During 1951, final steps were taken to decentralise the personal health services to divisional level, these consist of school health, child welfare, health visiting, domiciliary midwifery, home nursing, and immunisation. The Borough is within the Holderness Health Division, which consists of Hedon and Beverley Municipal Boroughs, Beverley and Holderness Rural District Councils, and Hornsea and Withernsea Urban District Councils. It is obviously better for one Medical Officer to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of both environmental and personal health services.

One of the most urgent social problems is the adequate care of old people. I have had a number of cases referred to me by general practitioners and the welfare department, of old people living alone who are incapable of looking after themselves, but who are not sufficiently ill to warrant admission to an acute bed in hospital. These cases have to be admitted to a chronic ward and as the number of beds available for this type of case are not adequate a fairly long delay is often necessary. Legal proceedings, under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, are available in urgent cases or where the patient refuses to go into hospital voluntarily, however, this section is only used as a last resort.

Increasing the age of retirement may in some measure alleviate the old people's problem as there is no doubt that a man doing even a partial day's work maintains a happier mental and physical outlook on life than when he is completely unemployed. Some authorities have advocated the routine medical examination of old people along the lines of the child welfare and school health services, so far this idea has not been popular, but if by so doing



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old people could be given work suited to their ability and so be kept in a more healthy condition, the effort would pay practical dividends in the spheres of finance and human happiness.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the help and courtesy of the Chairman and members of the Council, and other Officials during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WM. FERGUSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

AUGUST, 1952.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.HOUSING AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Since the end of the war, 64 permanent houses have been completed by the Council, and 32 by private enterprise. No new houses were completed during 1951, and at the end of the year there were 215 applicants on the waiting list for a council house.

During the year numerous visits have been made to houses and insanitary premises in the Borough. The problem of Bond's Estate will be with the council for many years to come, only 5 out of approximately 120 houses on this estate are connected to a sewer, 69 have cesspits, and the remainder depend on pail closets for the disposal of sewage. The great variation in the type of building detracts from the aesthetic appearance of the area. Many of the houses are in a poor general state of repair, and there are numerous huts and shacks dotted here and there which ought to be demolished. The general drainage from many of these houses is unsatisfactory, causing numerous stagnant pools of dirty water to collect during the wetter part of the year.

Special reference must be made to the Westland's open drain which runs through the Borough. This drain takes sewerage from a number of houses and from time to time has caused a nuisance as the water in it is stagnant and foul smelling. The Council have undertaken to have this drain properly cleaned out in the near future.

It is hoped that work on the proposed new sewage scheme which will take in the new school at Preston will soon be started.

Total number of houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspector	30
Total number of inspections for housing defects	18
Number of houses found totally unfit for human habitation	2
Number of houses found partly unfit for human habitation	3
Number of cases of overcrowding	6
Number of overcrowded families re-housed during the year	0

CLOSETS

Number of Privies in District	0
Number of Pail Closets	221
Number of Conversions - Pails	9

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough continues to be provided with a wholesome water supply from the City of Kingston-upon-Hull.

MILK

The County Council's sampling officers took 16 samples of milk for biological examination and all were satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1951 AND FOUR PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Live birth rate per 1,000 pop'n.	Still birth rate per 1,000 total births.	Death rate per 1,000 pop'n.
1951	1,994	24.28 +	50.43 +	13.07 +
1950	1,942	23.43 +	0.00	12.86 +
1949	1,810	17.68	30.3	14.36
1948	1,857	17.77	57.11	9.15
1947	1,808	19.91	76.92	15.49

+ Corrected by comparative rate.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	21	18	39
	Illegitimate	2	3	5
STILLBIRTHS		2	1	3
DEATHS		18	15	33

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :- 53.86

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1951.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from all causes	18	15	33
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	-	2	2
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	1	3
Coronary disease and angina	4	2	6
Other heart diseases	4	3	7
Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	-	2
Suicide	1	-	1

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS

Under 1 year of age	3
Between 1 and 5 years of age	-
Between 5 and 15 years of age	-
Between 15 and 25 years of age	-
Between 25 and 45 years of age	1
Between 45 and 65 years of age	4
65 years of age and over	25
Total	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1951, 31 cases of infectious diseases were notified and the following table shows the age distribution of these diseases :-

Disease	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	15 & over	Total
Measles	-	5	6	18	1	-	-	30
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Attack rate of Measles and Scarlet Fever (rates per 1,000 Home Population).

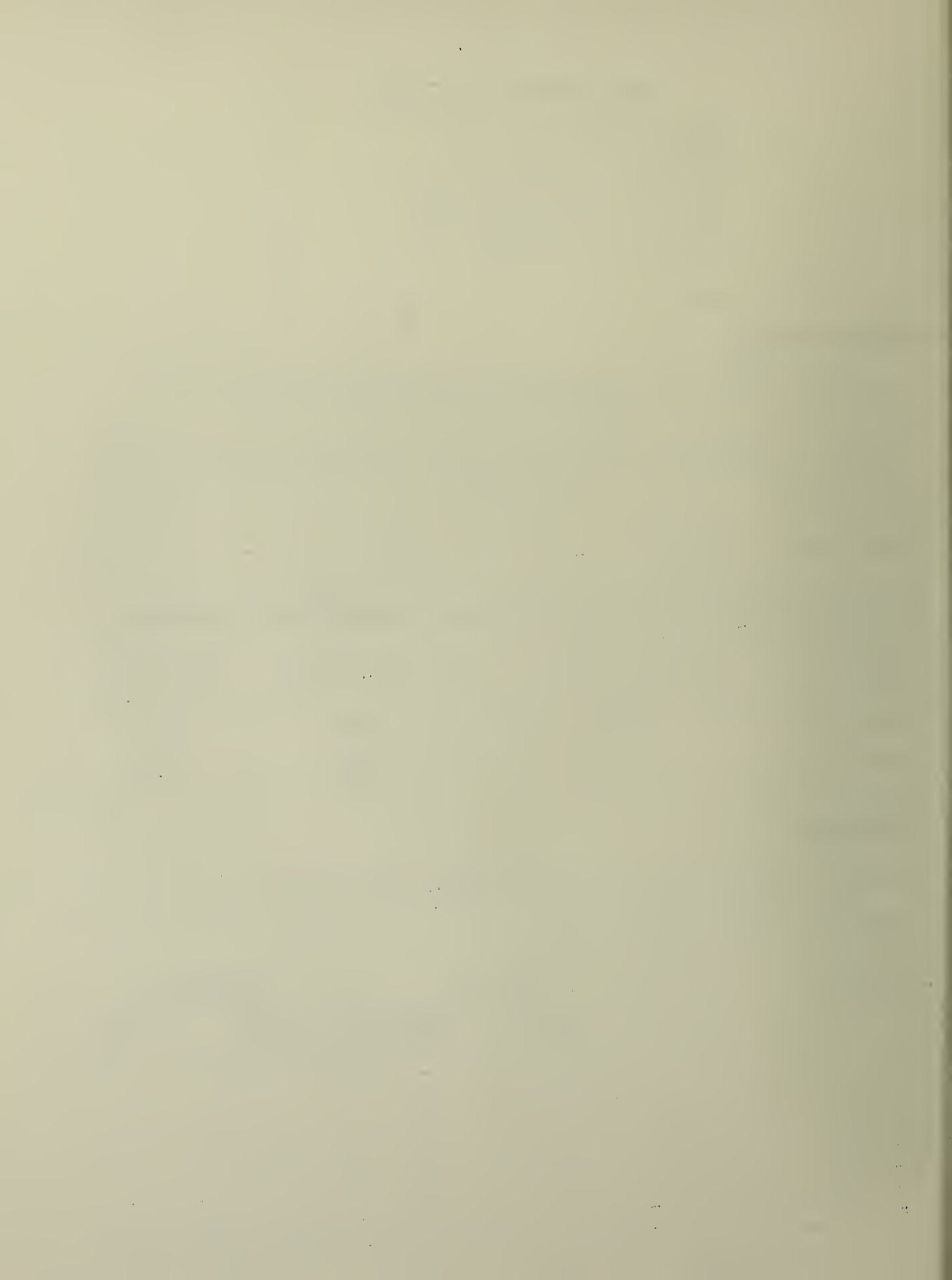
Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns	Hedon M.B.
Measles	14.07	14.82	15.05
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	0.50

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1951, 3 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 2 of which were Pulmonary. All were females aged 32, 20, and 36 years of age.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all cases on the register at the 31st December, 1951 :-

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 to 5 years.	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 "	-	-	1	-
15 to 25 "	-	-	-	1
25 to 35 "	-	4	1	-
35 to 45 "	1	1	-	-
45 to 65 "	1	3	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	8	2	1



IMMUNISATION

During the year ended 31st December, 1951, the number of children immunised against Diphtheria was as follows :-

Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Total	Boosters (all ages)
29	1	30	168

VACCINATION

The number of persons vaccinated or revaccinated during the year was as follows :-

	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 & over	Total
Number vaccinated	14	-	1	1	16
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	2	2

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

A clinic was held monthly at the Allison Hall and attendances were as follows :-

	Under 1 year of age	Between 1 and 5 years of age
Total number of attendances made	277	168
Total number of children who attended	31	62

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.HOSPITALS

Infectious disease cases are usually sent to the Isolation Hospital at Cottingham.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological examination are sent to the Royal Infirmary at Hull.

Bacteriological and biological examinations of milk, water, and ice-cream are carried out by the Public Health Research Council in Hull.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The conveyance of all cases, including infectious disease, is the responsibility of the County Council as the Local Health Authority.

